

DOCKET NO: 202990US-2SRD DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

NOBORU YAMAGUCHI, ET AL. : GROUP UNIT:

SERIAL NO: NEW DIV. APPLN.

FILED: HERewith : EXAMINER:

FOR: VIDEO ENCODING AND DECODING  
APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to initial examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application  
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claims 19-45 as follows:

1. ~~19~~ A video decoding apparatus comprising:

decoder means for decoding an encoded alpha-map signal for discriminating a  
background of an input signal and at least one object thereof;

motion compensation prediction decoder means for decoding an arbitrary shape picture  
of the object in accordance with the alpha-map signal to obtain a decoded arbitrary shape picture  
signal; and

a plurality of memory means for storing a background signal representing the background  
and the decoded arbitrary shape picture signal, respectively, the decoded arbitrary shape picture

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